TechNews is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are FPA system application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also highlighted.

Visit the FPA home page (http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/) for the redesigned and reorganized User Guide for FPA-PM.

A problem has been identified in the extraction of FPA-PM data to BDD. Dispatch centers, (NWCG identifier ends in C) can not be a budgeted owner in the FPU participant list. The dispatch center does not own the resource or facility, an administrative unit has to own either a resource or facility. There are instances where multiple administrative units supply funding and the dispatch center acquires and/or manages the resource, however the administrative unit is still the resource owner for strategic budget purposes. Bottom line, please change any dispatch centers to non-budgeted or remove them from the participant list before running the final FY 2008 analysis.

Budget Development and Delivery (BDD) The draft BDD User's Guide is available at: http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Documentation/index.html

BDD Application link on FPA website at: www.fpa.nifc.gov (in the tool bar at the top of the page) or directly at: https://fpa.nwcg.gov/BDD/faces/jsp/login/BDDLogin.jsp

Please Note: After working in the newly released BDD application, it is apparent that the state/regional reviewers have a significant workload ahead of them. For this reason, ICG recommends that the 2008 FPA-PM analyses be submitted by January 9. This will provide some additional time for BDD item approvals to be completed and for minor revisions that may need to be made by the FPUs. February 15, 2006 is still the official FPA budget submission deadline (which includes FPA-PM and BDD).

> **Feedback from the first BDD** submission on August 1, suggested the process be simplified. The intent was to automate the process by having the BDD system extract existing FPU data, and providing a method for entering additional preparedness items not covered in PM.
>
> *FPUs will still have to input some of their data manually in BDD*. For those preparedness budget items not covered in the PM analysis, FPUs will enter the remaining resources, leadership and support items to build a budget request to fully fund their existing organization.

New BDD features:
- The system has been modified to import resource and staffing cost data from FPA-PM into BDD

- A default BDD National Planning Dataset has been created for the purposes of extracting PM submitted budgets, labeled "FY 2007 Test." This Production release is NOT preloaded with budget items as all budget items must be created from 'scratch' using the BDD 1.0 Budget Item entry function.
- In the very near future a second National Planning Dataset will be created for the 2008 PM submitted budget extraction.
- A second production release of the BDD system is scheduled for early December. This update will provide enhanced functionality for regional and national users.
- A draft BDD User's Guide: http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Documentation/index.html

Please Note: If you need a copy of your FPU's original August Excel™ spreadsheet for reference, send Cal Gale an email at: Cal_Gale@blm.gov

FPU Progress Reports are due the 9th of December, January, and February. The progress reports provide the FPA Steering Committee, ICG and Geographic Area leads with information to help support the FPU's success in meeting budget submission deadlines.

The ICG would like to know about your experience with the November 15 submission. The official FPU Progress Reports give us a quantitative assessment of FPU status, but they don't give us an indication of what worked well, what was troublesome, what was potentially confusing, etc.

If your FPU or Geographic Area submits a narrative, it will be highly appreciated. Please send this as a MS-Word e-mail attachment to Ed_Delaney@nps.gov, using the subject "Nov 15 narrative" on the e-mail, and your FPU identifier (e.g. "NE-ME-001_narrative.doc") on the document itself.

Current PCHA Guidance states that FPUs should use Patch 1a or Patch 1d. **PCHA 1.2.31 Patch 1e has now been authorized for use** and is available on NFMAS Beta site. The PCHA User Guide will be updated to reflect changes through Patch 1e, and will be posted to the NFMS-beta web site next week. This update is highly recommended.

There are two major enhancements:
1. A new fire import format for fires exported from DOI's WFMI.

2. Fire occurrence is only considered during Preparedness Staffing Season. This is to determine fire probabilities used in random draws, or through a stochastic process. **For many FPUs, this change will modify the number of resulting fires sent to the XML file, more accurately reflecting annual average occurrence.**

For FPU's that have the potential for Energy Release Component values to equal to those within the Preparedness Staffing Season this patch should result in a equal to or higher number of fires to be drawn than patch 1d provided.

Users will need to follow the steps below to develop a new XML file using patch 1e.
   Under the FPA tab – Calculate ERC and Wind Speed Bins, Fire Probabilities
   Under the FPA tab – Prepare Probability Based Scenario and XML File for FPA.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service will use the new Wildland Fire Management Information System to Export 1202 data to import into PCHA. That option is now available on the WFMI system under Export, select PCHA. To Import the Fires into PCHA, under the Fire tab select Import Fires, then WFMI import.

Problem on USGS Server. *This seems to occur when there is a significant amount of simultaneous usage.*

If more than 10 percent of the points fail, follow this procedure:
1. Redraw the points in PCHA. After a new collection of points is generated
2. Try accessing the USGS server again either early or late in the day when activity is expected to be at a lower level. You can also check the results of the USGS draw by going to Utilities > Database Browser in PCHA then to table Grid fires.
3. If the entries appear okay, elevation etc. the PCHA file should be okay to process.